Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 /053 W ------056027 120832Z/20

O 120757Z SEP 77
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8682
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONO HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, CH, SOPN, OEXC

SUBJ: CHINESE OFFICIALS ECHO TENG REMARKS TO AP DELEGATION

1. MEMBERS OF FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION OF COMMUNITY LEADERS FROM HAWAII CALLED ON AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK SEPTEMBER 9 TO SHARE IMPRESSIONS FROM THEIR MEETINGS WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS. DURING THEIR TWO WEEK VISIT TO THE PRC UNDER CHINA INTERNAIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE AUSPICES, THE 18-MEMBER DELEGATION OF EDUCATORS, BUSINESSMEN, ACADEMICS, AND JOURNALISTS VISITED CANTON, SOOCHOW, AND PEKING. THEIR MOST SIGNIFICANT CONVERSATIONS PRIOR TO DEPARTING FOR HOME ON SEPTEMBER 12 WERE WITH YUEH TAI-HENG, RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS FOR AMERICAN AFFAIRS OF CHINA TRAVEL; OFFICIALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION; AND LIAO CHENG-CHIH (WHO RARELY MEETS AMERICANS BUT WHO WAS PRESUMABLY SCHEDULED OWING TO THE PRESENCE OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS ON THE DELEGATION).

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2. DELEGATION MEMBER PHIL GIANELLA, PUBLISHER OF THE HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN, STATED THAT A NUMBER OF CHINESE OFFICIALS HAD IMMEDIATELY LAUNCHED INTO A RERUN OF TENG HSIAO-PING'S REMARKS TO THE AP DELEGATION. ACCORDING TO GIANELLA, YUEH TAI-HENG ECHOED TENG'S REMARKS, THEN ADDED "THE CHINESE ARE A PATIENT PEOPLE ... BUT OUR PATIENCE HAS ITS LIMITS". TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY OFFICIALS MADE

THE SAME POINTS IN A CONVERSATION WITH DELEGATION MEMBER JAMES GARY, PRESIDENT OF PACIFIC RESOURCES.

3. THE GROUP'S SEPTEMBER MEETING WITH LIAO CHENG-CHIH, PRESIDENT OF THE SINO-JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION, WAS BRIEF, FRIENDLY, AND GENERALLY NONSUBSTANTIVE. SEVERAL GROUP NEMBERS UNDERSTOOD LIAO TO OBSERVE THAT "WAR IS INEVITABLE BETWEEN THE PRC AND THE USSR", BUT WE PRESUME THAT EITHER A SLIP OF THE TONGUE OR A MISTRANSLATION IS INVOLVED (THE STANDARD LINE BEING THAT WAR BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS IS INEVITABLE).

4. CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE OFFICIALS INVITED THE TROUP TO RETURN IN A YEAR'S TIME. WOODCOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: BRIEFINGS, VISITS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PEKING02045
Document Source: Core

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770329-0652

Format: TEL From: PEKING

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770974/aaaackky.tel

Line Count: 77 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 09058648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Retention: 0 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 29-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1307933 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: CHINESE OFFICIALS ECHO TENG REMARKS TO AP DELEGATION

TAGS: SOPN, OEXC, OTRA, US, CH

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/09058648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009